

**Mervyn Sharp Bennion  
Central Utah Veterans Home  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 28, 2020**

**4 PM**

**Attendance: Members:** Art Richardson, Chairman, John Williams, Randy Edwards, Secretary, Monica Arnold, Cindy Jones, Nick Flake, and John Ekins, Vice Chair

**Zoom:** Cindy Jones,

**Excused:** Lee Orton

**Guests and Staff:** Director, Jim Bedingfield, Weston Parsons, Avalon and Keshia Wilson

**Guest**

**Meeting Convened:** 4 PM

1. **Welcome:** Art Richardson, Advisory Board Chairman gave the welcome and introduced Jim Bedingfield our new Home Director. Art gave commendation and complimentary comments on Jim's accomplishments and work that Jim brings with him from the Veteran's Military and Affairs Office.
2. **Approval of the August 26th minutes:** Art asked for the approval of the minutes and Nick Flake 2<sup>nd</sup> the Motion. and John Ekins motioned to approve the minutes as presented **Approved** unanimously.
3. **State Officers Report:** Mr. Jim Bedingfield (See attachment **State Officer's Report**)
  - a. Introduction.
  - b. HVAC replacement.
  - c. Hot Water Update.
  - d. Power Line reconfiguration.
  - e. Fence Gate addition.
  - f. Update on Fish Aquarium.
4. **Advisory Board Administrator's Report:**
  - a. Bennion Pandemic Summary.
  - b. Car Show T-Shirt Fundraiser.
  - c. Military Branch Flags Project.
  - d. Bennion Gear and "Bennion Tough." Great moral program for employees.
  - e. Testing Requirements.
  - f. Resource Management.

g. CNA Wage Scale.

**5. UDVMA Report: Mr. Jeff Hanson**

a. \$4-7 Million for Cemetery Improvements.

b. There may be a possibility that some land may be donated to the Veteran's Memorial Park in Bluffdale area.

**6. Santa Zone: Mr. Art Richardson**

a. Art gave a summary and rough estimates of the needs to buy for the Santa Zone.

- Family Games / Puzzles. (40)
- Scarves / Gloves / ear Warmers. (35)
- Jewelry (40) This will be donated by a residents daughter as she is closing her business.
- Small Tools sets / Flashlights / (while being mindful of weight for Postage) (50)
- Fleece Blankets (30)
- Chocolates / Cookies (70)
- Gift cards (70)
- Science / Art / Craft Kits (40)
- Art has purchased 20 Uno Card games.

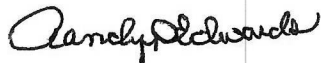
**Discussion:** How much should we purchase the Gift Cards for? John Ekins recommended that we purchase Gift Cards in the amount of **\$25.00 each**. John Ekins made the motion to purchase the Cards in the amount of **\$25**. And Nick Flake 2<sup>nd</sup> the Motion. Passed Unanimously.

**5. Old Business:**

**6. New Business:**

**7. Next Advisory Board Meeting:** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2121 at 4 PM

**8. Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn was made by John Ekins and seconded by Nick Flake. Motion to adjourn was unanimous.



Randy D. Edwards CSM (R)

Secretary to the Board

Mervyn Sharp Bennion, Central Utah Veterans Home

Cc: Mr. Jim Bedingfield

Mr. Art Richardson

## **Veterans Home State Officer's Report**

### **New state Officer Introduction:**

The New State Officer is Jim Bedingfield. He has been in the facility for two months and is looking forward to working with the Advisory Board, Avalon staff, and the residents. Jim is a Retired Navy Veteran who spent 20 years on Active Duty. He was a USN Independent Duty Corpsman, who spent 14 years serving with and caring for Marines, including three combat tours in Iraq from 2003-2006. Jim has worked in several positions with the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs for over 8 years and is looking forward to the latest challenge of serving the residents of the Bennion Veterans Home.

### **Improvement Projects:**

The Bennion Veterans Home currently has four(4) Facility Projects that are planned or in progress.

- **HVAC replacement:** The facility is upgrading from Gen 3 HVAC units to Gen 5 HVAC units. This project is underway and is expected to be completed in December as long as the facility can remain open to outside workers, and if the units can be delivered with minimal delays. The contractor is currently working on pre install work in anticipation of the units being delivered.
- **Hot Water Heaters and piping:** This project has passed approval and will involve replacing water heaters and the associated piping with reconfiguration of the current water heating plant. The new configuration will separate the two separate water heating requirements for the facility.
- **Power line reconfiguration:** This project has passed approval and involves a power line at the rear of the property. This line is currently located above ground, and will be buried. The line may be reconfigured from a source along the main road, or it may remain at the rear of the property.
- **Fence Gate addition:** A section of the fence on the west side of the property will be removed and replaced with a gate. This gate will facilitate access by utility vehicles used for maintenance or facility operations.

The Veterans Home recently completed the purchase and installation of a new Saltwater aquarium located in the Great Room that is central to the facility. We will soon be ordering Fish to fill the tank for the enjoyment and relaxation of the residents.

### **Donation Fund:**

The Bennion Veteran Home Donation Fund has a current balance of \$49,804.35 and is very healthy. We have continued to pay for Musical Performances, and other recreational activities to keep the spirits of the Residents uplifted. Donation have decreased in frequency, but continue to come in.



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**BENNION**  
V E T E R A N S   H O M E

October 28, 2020

RE: Advisory Board Administrator Report

**Bennion Pandemic Summary:** Over the past seven months of the pandemic we have NOT had one Veteran-Resident test positive. However, we have had 16 staff who have tested positive through this same time period, but by following our preventative measures and our staff's accountability we have managed successfully.

Recently, we discovered we had our first Veteran-Resident test positive following their admission from Utah Valley Hospital. Their admission date was October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and on October 28<sup>th</sup> we were notified by the hospital that the nurse who cared for him on October 21<sup>st</sup> tested positive. The exposed Resident was immediately discharged to one of our sister facilities COVID Units for further testing and evaluation.

Our key focus for the pandemic does NOT change: (1) Prevention; (2) Containment; (3) Communication. We have implemented parts of our Emergency Response Plan in an effort to minimize any potential spread of the virus and have additional measures in place to monitor any changes of condition every four hours.

Other not so dreadful items for review:

- (1) Car Show T-Shirt Fundraiser: The t-shirt is currently being designed for approval and readiness to begin ordering/shipping. Our goal is to have things prepped and ready for our two-week sales blitz by November 10<sup>th</sup> in order to begin sales on the 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day. –PayPal account resources available.
- (2) Military Branch Flags Project: Due to COVID many of our projects and programs were placed on hold or suspended until further notice. We are ready to move forward with this project and are coordinating further logistics with the vendor who will complete the project.
- (3) Bennion Gear & "Bennion Tough": In an effort to recognize our staff, the Bennion Buck and Bennion Store were introduced by our staff driven Employee Recruitment and Retention Committee. Staff can earn "Bennion Bucks" which then can be redeemed for Bennion Store items. These items include shirts, pants, blankets, baby clothing, etc. We have had positive reviews of this program and with the addition of "Bennion Tough" gear we anticipate it will continue to help build staff morale and retention.



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- (4) Testing Requirements: On August 26, 2020 CMS (Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services – they make all the rules and enforcement) issued a new regulation requiring all facilities to adapt new testing requirements. Due to the County, and now State, infectious rates we have been testing everyone in the facility twice a week. This process was a surprise to our industry and I have to give a ton a praise to our Clinical Administrative team and staff for rising to the challenge and ensuring compliance.
- (5) Resource Management: Fortunately, we have been well ahead of our annual budgetary goal's year to date. The weekly testing requirements can cost upwards of \$65,000 a week! We know we will obtain additional grant funds to offset some of these costs, but we are trying to be more prudent with our costs now more than ever. We will NEVER (REPEAT: NEVER) sacrifice quality care and service to save a buck, but we can also be smart with the valuable resources entrusted to us (i.e. savings from van outings canceled, time clock management, etc.) and address the 'low hanging fruit'.
- (6) CNA Wage Scale: Prior to the pandemic and after further market analysis it was determined that our CNA wages were well below the norm for our area. After working with our company's HR department & internal personnel reviews a new wage scale was created with an overall increase across the board (Starting CNA wage: \$11; Following review: Now \$13).

While this adds additional costs it really is an investment in our most precious operational resource: CNA's and Personnel. We anticipate additional reviews in the upcoming year, but grateful that we were able to provide additional support for those that have the most contact and interaction with our Veteran-Residents!